

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 L-02

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DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:JPSTEINMETZ:BST

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EWWT

SUBJECT:CONASA PROBLEM AND THE MIAMI TRADE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA A) 419 B) 452 C) 461

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REPORTING ON CONASA PROBLEM AND SUBSEQUENT CLARIFICATION. SPOT CHECKS WITH CONASA MIAMI OFFICE JAN 31 INDICATED THAT LINE HAD DISCONTINUED SERVICE IN DECEMBER; CCT, US-OWNED AND THIRD FLAG COMPETITOR, STATED IT NOT EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH MIAMI/NICARAGUA SHIPMENTS. MAMENIC, COINCIDENTALLY, INAUGURATED RO/RO SERVICE EVERY 12 DAYS BETWEEN MIAMI AND MANAGUA VIA LA ESPERANZA/RAMA AS OF JAN 17 USING CHARTERED BRITISH FLAG VESSEL, THE NEW BRUNSWICK.

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2. CONSIDERING PREVIOUS CARGO RESERVATION PROBLEM FROM

US GULF INVOLVING MAMENIC LINES, IT IS NOT AT ALL INCON-
CEIVABLE THAT MAMENIC WITH GON SUPPORT MIGHT POSSIBLY
ATTEMPT TO MONOPOLIZE THE MIAMI-NICARAGUA TRADE. POSTS
MAY RECALL GULF PROBLEM WITH MAMENIC WAS RESOLVED
SATISFACTORILY SINCE DELTA LINES SERVED TRADE ALSO AND
1956 FCN TREATY WITH NICARAGUA STIPULATED NATIONAL TREAT-
MENT FOR OUR RESPECTIVE FLAG LINES IN THE CARRIAGE OF
COMMERCIAL CARGOES. ABSENCE OF US FLAG CARRIER IN THE
MIAMI-NICARAGUA SERVICE, HOWEVER, COULD HAVE PRECLUDED
SIMILAR APPROACH VIS-A-VIS THE GON HAD THE SITUATION
BEEN AS FIRST REPORTED REFTEL A. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD
THERE BE ANY FUTURE ACTION BY EITHER THE GON OR GOH
(TYPE DISCUSSED IN PARAS 2 AND 3, REFTEL A) TO GAIN
EXCLUSIVE CARGO RIGHTS FOR THEIR SHIPPING LINES IN THEIR
MIAMI TRADE, SUCH COULD BE CONSIDERED AS CREATING A CON-
DITION UNFAVORABLE TO SHIPPING IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF
THE UNITED STATES (FACT THAT THERE IS NO US FLAG SERVICE
IS IMMATERIAL) AND COULD PRECIPITATE COUNTERVAILING
MEASURES BY THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) UNDER
SECTION 19, MERCHANT MARINE ACTION, 1920 (SEE STATE
A-8430 OF NOVEMBER 8, 1974 ON FMC GENERAL ORDER NO. 33.
ORDER WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED DECEMBER 1 AS INDICATED IN STATE
243654 IN ORDER TO ALLOW FMC CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS BY INTERESTED PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, FMC CAN
ACT UNDER SECTION 19 WITHOUT PROMULGATION OF NEW
IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.)

3. FOREGOING IS PROVIDED FOR POSTS' INFORMATION AND
BACKGROUND. HOWEVER, EMBASSY MANAGUA IS REQUESTED TO
CHECK OUT REPORT REFTEL A THAT AFTER FEBRUARY 10
NICARAGUAN-BOUND CARGOES FROM MIAMI MUST BE SHIPPED WITH
MAMENIC. IN THIS REGARD, FACT THAT MAMENIC RECENTLY
INAUGURATED A NEW MIAMI SERVICE MAY BE A COINCIDENCE --
AND THEN, IT JUST MIGHT NOT BE. KISSINGER

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